



Addressing the health effects of climate change: Family physicians are key

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Year:	2008
Editor:	Vakil, C.
Publisher:	Ontario College of Family Physicians (Toronto, Canada)

Abstract:

This is a landmark review of the science of climate change and its impacts on human health –now and in the near future. Climate change has led to a great deal of concern amongst Canadians and a world-wide debate on the strategies that are needed to address this all encompassing health issue. In spite of the concerns of governments and people around the world, physicians and the health care sector in general have been relatively silent on an issue that will have major impacts on the health of the people they serve and in the communities in which they practice.

Source: <http://ocfp.on.ca/communications/archive/public-policy-documents>

Resource Description

Climate Scenario :

specification of climate scenario (set of assumptions about future states related to climate)

Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES)

Special Report on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) Scenario: SRES A1, SRES A2, SRES B1, SRES B2

Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Public

Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Ecosystem Changes, Extreme Weather Event, Food/Water Quality, Food/Water Security, Food/Water Security, Glacier/Snow Melt, Human Conflict/Displacement, Human Conflict/Displacement, Indoor Environment, Precipitation, Sea Level Rise, Temperature

Air Pollution: Allergens, Interaction with Temperature, Ozone, Particulate Matter, Other Air Pollution

Air Pollution (other): CO; Mercury; NOx; VOCs

Extreme Weather Event: Drought, Flooding, Hurricanes/Cyclones, Landslides, Wildfires

Food/Water Quality: Biotoxin/Algal Bloom, Other Water Quality Issue

Water Quality (other): Saltwater intrusion; Ocean temperatures

Food/Water Security: Agricultural Productivity, Fisheries, Food Access/Distribution, Nutritional Quality

Temperature: Extreme Cold, Extreme Heat, Fluctuations

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Arctic, Ocean/Coastal, Rural, Urban, Other Geographical Feature

Other Geographical Feature : Forests

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Non-U.S. North America

Health Co-Benefit/Co–Harm (Adaption/Mitigation):

specification of beneficial or harmful impacts to health resulting from efforts to reduce or cope with greenhouse gases

A focus of content

Health Impact:

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Cardiovascular Effect, Infectious Disease, Injury, Mental Health/Stress, Morbidity/Mortality, Respiratory Effect, Other Health Impact

Cardiovascular Effect: Heart Attack, Stroke

Infectious Disease: Airborne Disease, Foodborne/Waterborne Disease, Vectorborne Disease, Zoonotic Disease

Airborne Disease: Influenza

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Campylobacteriosis, Cholera, Cryptosporidiosis, E. coli,

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Giardiasis, Norovirus, Salmonellosis, Shigellosis, Vibrios, Other Diarrheal Disease

Vectorborne Disease: General Vectorborne, Mosquito-borne Disease, Tick-borne Disease

Mosquito-borne Disease: Dengue, Malaria, West Nile Virus, Yellow Fever

Tick-borne Disease: Lyme Disease, Other Tick-borne Disease

Tick-borne Disease (other): Human granulocytic anaplasmosis (HGA)

Zoonotic Disease: General Zoonotic Disease, Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Other Zoonotic Disease

Zoonotic Disease (other): Plague

Mental Health Effect/Stress: Mood Disorder, Stress Disorder

Respiratory Effect: Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, Upper Respiratory Allergy, Other Respiratory Effect

Respiratory Condition (other) : Allergic rhinitis

Other Health Impact: Hyperthermia; Heatstroke; Hospital visits; Emergency room visits

Medical Community Engagement: 

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

Mitigation/Adaptation: 

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation, Mitigation

Model/Methodology: 

type of model used or methodology development is a focus of resource

Cost/Economic, Exposure Change Prediction

Population of Concern: A focus of content

Population of Concern: 

populations at particular risk or vulnerability to climate change impacts

Children, Elderly, Low Socioeconomic Status, Racial/Ethnic Subgroup, Workers

Other Racial/Ethnic Subgroup: Aboriginal populations

Other Vulnerable Population: Disabled; Immigrants; Pre-existing medical conditions; Homeless

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Resilience: 

capacity of an individual, community, or institution to dynamically and effectively respond or adapt to shifting climate impact circumstances while continuing to function

A focus of content

Timescale: 

time period studied

Long-Term (>50 years)

Vulnerability/Impact Assessment: 

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content